

# Enfield Clean Energy Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

March 2012

## The Committee

The Enfield Clean Energy Committee is a Town Committee made up of Enfield Residents interested in promoting Clean Renewable Energy.

### The team members:

Jeff Myjak—Chair  
Ray Gwozdz - V. Chair  
Virginia Higley  
Karen LaPlante  
Steve Moriarty  
Greg Mark  
Doug Lombardi

### LIAISONS :

Town Council:  
Tom Kienzler

Staff:  
Joel Cox

### Points:



When we reach 200 points, we will be 1 step closer to getting a 2kw solar system.

Each Clean Option purchase is worth 1 point. Each Solar or Geothermal system is worth 3points.

Clean Option Points **155**  
System Points **60**  
**Total Points 215**

## Clean Energy Workshop

Saturday, February 25, members of The Enfield Clean Energy Committee had an opportunity to attend a workshop with other town task forces. In the workshop, we got updates on some of the new legislation. A useful program that the residents of Enfield can use is the 0% interest rate on insulation. Any homeowner, who gets a Home Energy Audit and is found to need insulation, can get an interest free loan if the total is between \$1,000 and \$2,500. The payments will be added to their electric bill.

Another topic for discussion was Energy Performance Contracts (EPC). EPC's are contracts that both businesses and municipalities can enter into for energy upgrades. These upgrades can be for major upgrades such as boilers or smaller things like lighting. These contracts should be reviewed and monitored by what is called "Owner Rep". This is often an independent engineer

who knows contract language and can look out for your best interest. They will look to be sure that the contract is not guaranteeing your savings in aggregate. The contractor may say if you replace your windows and boiler, we will save you 15% on your oil per year. By using an Owner Rep, they will be able to see that you will save 15% just by replacing your boiler and replacing windows will do nothing for you.

These Owner Reps will also look to be sure that the monitoring systems will have a backend that talks in your computer language. There is nothing worse than hiring a contractor that will require you to keep them on forever because they have used a propriety software package to monitor your systems.

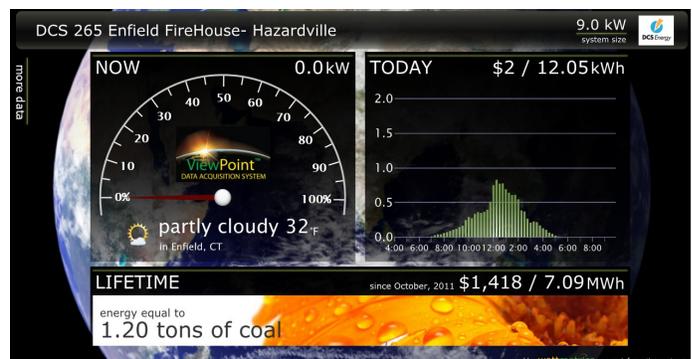
Some towns are looking to put in "Energy Independent Districts". Those are generally run by a municipality to produce

electricity for a certain area. It may be for a business district to ensure they always have power or a hospital and the area offices. These became an approved program back in 2007 and must be "Clean Energy". Ansonia and Stamford have tried these with little to no success. Vernon has recently approved these and we will be watching the progress of this. Area's we see as a possibility for these are out around the prisons and in the center around the malls.

The last segment we talked on was "Outreach" – how can we reach out to the community with both clean energy and conservation ideas. While Enfield is leading the way with things like our Energy Expo and Newsletter, there are still more ways we can help out. We can get involved with organizations like PTO's, Churches and Schools. If your organization would like to learn how you can help promote Clean Energy, contact us at [cleanenergy@enfield.org](mailto:cleanenergy@enfield.org).

## Firehouse Update

In 2010, four of Enfield's firehouses had solar arrays installed on their roofs. That real time data can now be seen on the web. You can go to [www.enfieldcleanenergy.net](http://www.enfieldcleanenergy.net) and click on "Firehouse Solar Project".



## CLEAN ENERGY OPTION FAQ'S

**Q: If I want to switch to an alternative energy supplier, what is a variable rate?**

**A:** A variable rate is a rate that may fluctuate on a monthly basis based upon current market conditions. Wholesale market conditions are the biggest reason rates could change up or down.

**Q. How often can the variable rate change?**

The variable rate should only change once a month (if it changes at all). You can contact your new supplier to find out how they notify their customers when the rate changes.

**Q. Do I have to call the utility and tell them to switch my electric supplier?**

No. Your new supplier will notify them that you have switched. So there is no need to contact them unless you have a certain contract that you are aware of with them.

[www.enfieldcleanenergy.net](http://www.enfieldcleanenergy.net)

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Energy**

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## Around Town — GM Industries

GMI offers a choice of a roof mounted system OR a pole mounted motorized tracking system. A roof mounted system is suitable for property with a south facing roof. However, a fixed roof mount loses efficiency by not being able to move as the sun tracks across the sky. A GMI Star Tracker has the advantage of being adjustable with the ease of pushing a button! This allows you to get an extra 40 percent more power! In addition, their exclusive fully automated solar electric pv system tracks the sun for you, no adjustments needed!

The GMI star tracker is fully automated, their pole and footings are engineered stamped and approved to withstand winds of up to 110 mph with panels at a 42 degree angle. GMI offers 16 to 48 panels in configurations of ;16, 20, 24, 28, 30, 32, 35 36, 40, 42 and up to 48 all on a single structure. At GMI they are more than just technology, their people are there to help with any ques-

tions, offering guidance and taking care of the entire project with an experienced and educated staff to help every step of the way. Their company is focused on getting their customers the best technology, with the highest quality installations, at the best price. In addition, their structures are 100 percent ARRA compliant because they manufacture their own poles and mounts in Tolland, CT.

Solar pv systems typically pay for themselves in 10 years or less. While you are paying for your system your electric rate is locked in, no more rising rates for you. Once your system is paid for, you can enjoy free electricity every time the sun shines. Even when its cloudy their designs are so efficient, your system still makes power! In addition GMI can design a system that not only powers your home but heats it as well. By adding an electric boiler, powered by your solar system, you eliminate your electric and both the domestic hot water and heating bills while dramatically

ing the rate of return on investment.



Over the past decade we have seen solar prices go down while innovations and breakthroughs go up. That means great prices for you! In addition, state and federal incentives are at the highest they will ever be, so you pay less! For example, the state of CT pays up to 25% toward your system and the Federal Gov't kicks in 30%. Allow GMI to show you how to turn your electric bill into a solar energy payment. Why send more of your hard earned money to the utilities every month when you can invest in yourself instead? Once paid for, you have a quiet, reliable, environmentally friendly way of generating free

## Small Business Energy Advantage Program

CL&P has created the Small Business Energy Advantage Program. This program can help you save money and improve your business without increasing your expenses.

### Free with No Obligation Energy Evaluation

They will help your business determine energy efficient upgrades to reduce your energy use along with showing you how much money you'll save every month.

### Professional Installation

If the recommended changes make sense for your business, they will make the energy-efficient installation without interrupting business as usual.

### Cash Incentives

In most cases, you pay nothing up front improving your facility for a fraction of the price.

- CL&P (CEEF Fund) pays up to 35% for most lighting and 40% for LED and induction.

### Interest Free Financing

Qualified businesses get approved by CL&P for interest-free financing. The financed amount appears on your monthly electric bill. In most cases, CL&P will adjust your bill so the new costs are offset by your monthly energy savings. CL&P payoffs are not to exceed 36 months.

### Savings & Profits

When the upgrades are paid off, you'll see the savings - up to hundreds of dollars a year.

### Tax Incentives:

[www.energytaxincentives.org/business](http://www.energytaxincentives.org/business)  
[www.irs.gov/irb/2006-26\\_IRB/ar11.html](http://www.irs.gov/irb/2006-26_IRB/ar11.html)

### Who to Contact

There are several contractors that can help. A complete list can be found at: <http://www.cl-p.com/downloads/SBEA%20Contractor%20List.pdf?id=4294986589&dl=t>. Among the companies on the list that local establishments have had a good experience with are [www.earthlighttechnologies.com](http://www.earthlighttechnologies.com) and [www.hannaelectric.com](http://www.hannaelectric.com).